



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2026-2027 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: _____

Project Title: _____

Grade Level(s): _____ # of Students DIRECTLY involved: _____

Subject Area(s): _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Grant Focus Area(s): In order to be considered, Waco Education Foundation Innovation Grant proposals must fall under one or more of the E4 focus areas: early childhood development, enhanced programming for advanced students, extended education for staff, and emphasis on student performance. NOTE: In addition to meeting one of the E4 focus areas above, grant readers are especially interested in creative and innovative grant requests that target fine arts, STEM, literacy, or enrichment.

(check all that apply)

Early Childhood Development

Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Fine Arts

Literacy

Extended Education for Staff

Emphasis on Student Performance

STEM

Enrichment

Project Description:

Empowering the Next Generation: Repairing the Legacy of the MS Band is a restorative initiative to bridge the gap between our state-of-the-art 184,000 sq. ft. facility and our aging, damaged instrument inventory. Following years of campus transitions and relocation, many instruments are currently unplayable. This project will fund critical mechanical repairs and stewardship training for 35+ high-priority instruments. By removing mechanical barriers, we provide the "tonal palette" necessary for artistic innovation, ensuring every scholar—regardless of financial background—has a high-quality tool that reflects our school's culture of pride, excellence, and belonging.

Rationale:

Empowering the Next Generation: Repairing the Legacy of the MS Band is a restorative initiative dedicated to revitalizing the instrument inventory of the band program. Following the devastating destruction of our historic campus, our program underwent significant transitions, including a consolidation with another middle school and a subsequent move into our state-of-the-art 184,000 sq. ft. facility. While our new building provides a world-class learning environment, the physical instruments—the vital tools of our students' education—have suffered from the years of relocation and delayed maintenance. This project aims to close the gap between our high-tech facility and our aging inventory, ensuring that every band student has access to a high-quality, fully functional instrument that reflects the culture of pride and excellence our school is known for.

Goals:

This project aims to close the gap between our state-of-the-art building and our aging equipment, ensuring that every student has access to a reliable high-quality instrument that reflects the excellence, pride, and belonging central to the band's mission.

- By repairing and reconditioning these instruments, we are intentionally creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment where students can thrive without mechanical barriers.
- Quality equipment transforms the classroom atmosphere, replacing the frustration of faulty gear with a focus on critical thinking as students decode complex notation and creativity as they explore their unique musical voices.
- This project directly fosters collaboration, as a functional ensemble requires every student to contribute a clear, reliable tone to the collective whole.
- Ultimately, these repairs provide the "tonal palette" necessary for innovation, empowering our scholars to "think beyond today" and develop the self-discipline and resilience needed for success in both music and the wider Waco community.

#54 - Empowering the Next Generation: Repairing the Legacy of the MS Band

Plan of Operations:

Phase 1: Comprehensive Assessment

1. Detailed Audit: Conduct a full serial-number tracked inventory of all woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments.
2. Professional Evaluation: Partner with Tarpley Music and their master technician to categorize each instrument:
 - a. Tier A - Minor repairs/reconditioning needed
 - b. Tier B - Major mechanical overhaul required
 - c. Tier C - Beyond economical repair (earmarked for removal of inventory)
3. Prioritization Matrix: Rank repairs based on immediate classroom needs (ensuring next year's roster is outfitted with working instruments)

Phase 2: Procurement and Logistics

1. Staged Transport: Organize the secure transport of instruments to the repair facility based on the Prioritization Matrix.
2. Asset Management: Update the school's digital inventory system to reflect current condition and repair progress.

Phase 3: Execution and Reconditioning

1. Technical Work: Execution of ultrasonic cleaning, dent removal, pad replacement, and mechanical adjustments by professional technicians.
2. Quality Control: A final play-test by band directors to ensure each instrument meets the "excellence and pride" standards of the program.
3. Student Training: Conduct "Instrument Care and Longevity" workshops for students to teach them how to maintain the newly restored equipment, fostering self-discipline and stewardship.

Phase 4: Impact Evaluation

1. Performance Metrics: Track student retention and recruitment numbers following the improvements.
2. Qualitative Feedback: Administer surveys to students to measure changes in classroom atmosphere, belonging, and frustration levels regarding gear.
3. Community Showcase: Host a "Restoration Concert" to demonstrate the improved tonal palette to the Waco community and grant stakeholders.

Project Timeline:

Phase	Month	Key Activity
Phase 1: Comprehensive Assessment	Weeks 1-3	Conduct audit and assign Tiers per instrument
Phase 2: Procurement and Logistics	Weeks 4-6	Transport instruments to repair shop and update inventory

#54 - Empowering the Next Generation: Repairing the Legacy of the MS Band

Phase 3: Execution and Reconditioning	Weeks 7-20	Repair instruments
Phase 4: Impact Evaluation (Ongoing)	Ongoing	Student Performances and feedback

Communication and Dissemination:

We will actively involve the Waco ISD Education Foundation throughout the project lifecycle to highlight the impact of their investment:

- Invitation to Observe: Foundation members will receive VIP invitations to witness the immediate impact on student confidence.
- Photo & Media Opportunities: We will capture high-resolution photos of the ensemble and professional-quality video testimonials from students. These will be provided to the Foundation for use in their annual reports and social media. These photos and videos will also be shared with Waco ISD Communications to be spread by social media and more.
- Willingness to Present: The Project Director is available to present a progress report or "Success Story" at a Foundation Board meeting, featuring a small student ensemble in full attire with restored instruments.
- Branding & Credit: All concert programs will prominently feature the Foundation's logo with the text: "Proudly supported by a grant from the Waco ISD Education Foundation."
- Professional Development/Staff Meetings: During district-wide Fine Arts staff development, we will present our Digital Inventory & Sustainability Guide to other directors.

Evaluation:

To demonstrate the success of this restoration project, the evaluation will focus on both tangible mechanical improvements and the intangible growth in student culture and musicality.

- Quantitative Metrics (Data-Driven)
 - Inventory Health Audit: A final "Post-Project" report from the lead technician certifying that 100% of the targeted instruments are in "Performance Ready" condition, meeting professional mechanical standards.
 - Academic Performance: A comparison of Formative Assessment scores (playing tests) from the previous year versus the current year to track improvements in technical proficiency.
 - Retention Rates: Monitoring the percentage of students who choose to continue in the band program from one semester to the next, aiming for a measurable increase as mechanical barriers are removed.

#54 - Empowering the Next Generation: Repairing the Legacy of the MS Band

- Qualitative Metrics (Experience-Based)
 - "Sound of Success" Surveys: Pre- and post-repair surveys for students to rate their frustration levels, pride in equipment, and sense of belonging. Success is defined by a significant shift from "frustrated/limited" to "confident/empowered."
 - Director Observations: Documenting the decrease in "lost instructional time" previously spent troubleshooting faulty valves, pads, or keys.
 - Ensemble Blend & Intonation: An evaluation by an external clinician or judge (during UIL or local festivals) to provide objective feedback on the band's tonal palette and collective sound quality.

Long Term Implications:

To ensure this isn't just a "one-time fix" but a fundamental shift in the program's trajectory, the Long-Term Implications focus on institutionalizing a culture of stewardship and financial sustainability.

- Institutional Sustainability
 - Preventative Maintenance Cycle: This grant will serve as the "reset button." Moving forward, the school will implement a staggered maintenance schedule, where 20% of the inventory is professionally serviced annually. This prevents the "compounded decay" that followed the campus transition.
 - Standardized Care Curriculum: To protect the Foundation's investment, an "Instrument Stewardship" unit will be integrated into the beginning of every school year. Students will be trained and tested on daily maintenance (oiling valves, greasing slides, swabbing bores) to extend the life of the reconditioned gear.
- Long-Term Impact on Scholars
 - Removing the "Poverty Penalty": For many families in the Waco community, the cost of instrument repair is a barrier to entry. By sustaining a high-quality school-owned inventory, we ensure that musical excellence is a right, not a privilege, fostering equity for years to come.
 - Bridge to High School: Students who learn on functional, high-quality gear develop the technical proficiency and confidence necessary to successfully transition into high school ensembles and pursue collegiate scholarships.
- Community & Cultural Impact
 - Reputational Restoration: A high-performing, well-equipped band is a "traveling billboard" for the school district. The long-term impact is a restored sense of civic pride as our scholars perform at city events, competitions, and festivals with a professional-grade sound.
 - Facility-Equipment Alignment: This project permanently solves the mismatch between our world-class facility and our aging tools, ensuring that the 184,000 sq. ft. campus remains a hub of true innovation and artistic excellence for the next generation of Waco musicians.

#54 - Empowering the Next Generation: Repairing the Legacy of the MS Band

Key Personnel:

Role	Primary Responsibility	Key Success Metric
Band Director	Project Lead	Grant Compliance and District Visibility
Repair Technician	Repair Instruments	Repair Instruments

Director: Project Lead

- The Head Director serves as the Project Lead, focusing on high-level management and community relations.
 - Serve as the primary point of contact for the Foundation and school administration.
 - Conduct the initial and final inventory audits to prioritize repairs.
 - Develop and implement the Instrument Stewardship curriculum for students.
 - Direct the final play-tests to verify that reconditioned instruments meet performance standards.

Repair Technician: Certified

- The repair technician serves as the backbone of the project.
 - Diagnose mechanical issues across woodwind, brass, and percussion families.
 - Perform high-level technical repairs, including ultrasonic cleaning, pad replacement, and dent removal.
 - Provide detailed repair logs for each instrument to be included in the final grant report.

Budget Narrative:

Professional Repairs (\$8,500): The core of this initiative is the mechanical restoration of our most critical assets. Estimates are based on average 2025 industry rates for Clean, Oil, and Adjust (COA) and Full Overhauls.

- Woodwinds: Older flutes and saxophones require complete repadding and mechanical restoration due to years of environmental exposure and relocation.
- Brass: Professional ultrasonic cleaning is essential to remove internal calcification, ensuring reliable valve and slide action for students.

Critical Repairs	Est. Unit Cost	Quantity	Subtotal
Woodwind Repad/ Regulation (Flute and Clarinet)	~\$300	14	~\$4,200
Saxophone Mechanical Restoration	~\$450	6	~\$2,700
Large Brass Cleaning and Dent Removal (Horn, Euphonium, and Tuba)	~\$200	8	~\$1,600
		Total	~\$8,500

